

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

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December 31, 1932

STOCK STATISTICS DESIRED BEFORE CONVENTION

Schedules for the quarterly survey of stocks of canned foods have been sent to all canners cooperating in this service.

The Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, appreciating the value of these figures to the industry and trade at the time of the annual convention in Chicago, is prepared to issue the statistics so that they will be available during convention week. To do this will require that canners and distributors return the schedules promptly.

Canners are therefore urged to send in their reports as soon as possible, and especially to make their reports before leaving for the convention.

RENEWAL OF LICENSES UNDER PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ACT

Owing to inquiries with reference to the renewal of licenses under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the Association recently asked the Bureau of Agricultural Economics whether it is necessary for a canner to renew his license on date of expiration or whether, if he is not buying at the time of the expiration of his license, he can wait until he begins purchasing for the next season's operations before taking out a new license, and the Bureau has replied to this inquiry as follows:

"This question came up last year and we advised all parties who made similar inquiries that it was not necessary for them to renew licenses until the time of making new purchase contracts. It is necessary to issue a new license in such cases, for the old one can not be renewed after it has once expired."

As previously announced in the Information Letter, a bill has been passed by the Senate which would exempt canners from the requirement to take out a license in case they purchase fruits and vegetables within the same state in which their factories are located, whether or not the products manufactured from these fruits and vegetables were later shipped in interstate com-

merce. This bill is now in the hands of the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Association is making efforts to have it reported to the House, so that action on it may be taken during the present short session.

FIVE-YEAR RECORD OF CANNING CROPS

Preliminary statistics on the acreage, yield, production, average seasonal price paid to grower, and farm value of canning crops in 1932 have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, along with comparative figures for earlier years. The detailed statistics are summarized in the following table, which furnishes a record for the past five years, except on lima beans and beets. Estimates on cucumbers grown for pickles were not issued this year.

ASPARAGUS a	Acreage <i>Acres</i>	Yield per acre <i>Crates</i>	Production <i>1,000 Crates</i>	Price per unit	Farm value
1928	39,550	133	5,242.0	\$0.95	\$4,994,000
1929	45,700	132	6,025.5	.98	5,923,000
1930	44,070	135	6,013.5	.97	5,857,000
1931	38,840	104	4,024.5	.90	3,634,000
1932	38,070	92	3,500.3	.86	2,321,000
BEANS, GREEN LIMA		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		
1929	24,570	1,020	25,061	\$4.26	\$1,008,000
1930	30,980	838	25,953	4.32	1,122,000
1931	28,760	1,064	30,614	3.86	1,182,000
1932	15,830	1,074	17,009	2.76	469,000
BEANS, SNAP		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>		
1928	45,040	1.54	70,200	\$61.47	\$4,315,000
1929	65,040	1.42	92,300	62.72	5,789,000
1930	78,690	1.15	90,400	62.12	5,616,000
1931	52,710	1.30	68,700	53.00	3,641,000
1932	29,820	1.47	43,800	38.40	1,682,000
BEETS		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>		
1929	6,920	5.19	35,930	\$17.42	\$626,000
1930	10,720	5.22	55,940	15.30	861,000
1931	4,750	6.36	30,190	11.73	354,000
1932	3,020	7.31	22,080	8.29	183,000
CABBAGE, KRAUT		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>		
1928	17,200	8.90	153,700	\$9.55	\$1,468,000
1929	20,610	8.43	173,800	10.21	1,775,000
1930	27,750	7.61	211,200	7.78	1,644,000
1931	18,690	7.16	133,800	6.04	808,000
1932	15,120	9.44	142,800	4.11	587,000
CORN		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>		
1928	305,960	1.94	592,000	\$12.68	\$7,516,000
1929	357,310	1.97	704,400	13.14	9,253,000
1930	375,590	1.76	650,000	13.24	8,733,000
1931	356,730	2.19	781,000	11.08	8,663,000
1932	160,930	2.32	373,000	7.55	2,822,000

		Yield per acre		Production	Price	Farm value
PEAS	Acreage	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	per unit	
1928	206,640	1,912	395,101	\$2.84	\$11,225,000	
1929	232,920	1,750	407,003	2.89	11,782,000	
1930	266,740	1,833	488,933	2.88	14,074,000	
1931	223,350	1,320	294,767	2.72	8,020,000	
1932	186,600	1,225	228,551	2.18	4,975,000	
PIMIENTOS ^b		Tons	Tons			
1928	8,850	1.80	15,920	\$39.38	\$627,000	
1929	9,020	2.15	19,350	36.90	714,000	
1930	8,940	1.72	15,340	37.68	578,000	
1931	6,740	1.34	9,050	33.15	300,000	
1932	8,800	1.84	16,220	31.38	509,000	
SPINACH ^c		Tons	Tons			
1928	14,040	5.00	73,200	\$17.51	\$1,282,000	
1929	18,170	5.33	96,900	16.76	1,624,000	
1930	9,350	4.11	38,400	14.79	568,000	
1931	7,850	4.42	34,700	12.82	445,000	
1932	5,540	3.70	20,500	12.98	266,000	
TOMATOES		Tons	Tons			
1928	270,850	3.68	907,200	\$14.19	\$14,146,000	
1929	323,720	4.74	1,534,800	15.25	23,410,000	
1930	407,950	4.31	1,757,600	15.05	26,444,000	
1931	296,120	3.30	976,500	11.80	11,519,000	
1932	274,570	4.16	1,141,000	10.07	11,491,000	

^a California and New York. ^b California and Georgia. ^c California and Maryland.

TRUCK CROP PRODUCTION AND PRICES

From the detailed statistics issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on truck market crops grown in 1932 the following table has been compiled showing the comparative production during the last five years. The figures for cabbage include both market and kraut cabbage; those for carrots, undetermined amounts used for canning in some states; those for spinach, undetermined amounts used for canning in states other than California and Maryland; those for strawberries, undetermined amounts used for canning, cold pack, etc.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Asparagus—1,000 crates	3,832	3,347	4,373	5,165	5,540
Beans, lima—1,000 bushels	204	348	587	571	652
Beans, snap—1,000 bushels	7,370	8,937	10,298	9,884	10,955
Beets—1,000 bushels	1,771	1,802	2,017	2,430	1,851
Cabbage—1,000 tons	957	1,069	1,018	1,019	964
Cantaloupes—1,000 crates	15,834	17,373	15,939	17,998	17,006
Carrots—1,000 bushels	6,583	11,007	11,387	12,216	10,867
Cauliflower—1,000 crates	5,425	6,600	5,849	6,961	7,364
Celery—1,000 crates	8,263	9,431	9,900	9,578	10,184
Cucumbers—1,000 bushels	4,456	4,602	6,194	4,869	3,282
Eggplant—1,000 bushels	754	688	798	775	809
Lettuce—1,000 crates	18,381	20,220	19,591	19,466	17,715
Onions—1,000 bushels	20,591	25,113	26,062	19,128	28,341
Peas—1,000 bushels	4,878	5,485	6,641	5,869	6,981
Peppers—1,000 bushels	3,990	3,411	3,680	4,578	3,828
Spinach—1,000 bushels	11,251	14,970	11,311	13,649	11,288
Strawberries—1,000 crates	13,560	13,455	9,534	11,322	13,574
Tomatoes—1,000 bushels	15,553	16,758	16,901	16,776	18,395
Watermelons—thousands	64,088	70,056	82,401	75,509	60,520

The foregoing production figures include some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions as follows:

Snap beans: 437,000 bushels in 1930, 150,000 in 1931, and 695,000 in 1932.
 Beets: 495,000 bushels in 1931.
 Cabbage, market and kraut: 70,900 tons in 1931 and 24,300 in 1932.
 Cantaloupes: 433,000 crates in 1931, and 3,180,000 in 1932.
 Carrots: 300,000 bushels in 1929, 44,000 in 1930, 1,634,000 in 1931, and 25,000 in 1932.
 Cauliflower: 170,000 crates in 1932.
 Celery: 240,000 crates in 1932.
 Cucumbers (market): 1,551,000 bushels in 1930, 234,000 in 1931, and 279,000 in 1932.
 Lettuce: 500,000 crates in 1932.
 Onions: 175,000 bushels in 1928, 145,000 in 1929, 75,000 in 1930, 726,000 in 1931, and 1,062,000 in 1932.
 Peas: 110,000 bushels in 1932.
 Spinach: 19,000 bushels in 1931 and 31,000 in 1932.
 Tomatoes: 75,000 bushels in 1930, 70,000 in 1931, and 535,000 bushels in 1932.
 Watermelons: 5,677,000 melons in 1930, 3,125,000 in 1931, 8,663,000 in 1932.

The trend of the average seasonal prices paid to growers of these crops is shown in the following table, which furnishes the average prices in 1928, 1930 and 1932:

	Average seasonal price paid to grower		
	1928	1930	1932
Asparagus—crate	\$2.45	\$2.24	\$1.43
Beans, lima—bushel	3.14	1.46	1.07
Beans, snap—bushel	1.71	1.39	.90
Beets—bushel	.71	.61	.40
Cabbage—ton	21.00	19.18	11.55
Cantaloupes—crate	1.30	1.21	.83
Carrots—bushel	.69	.57	.61
Cauliflower—crate	.97	.82	.61
Celery—2/3 crate	1.77	1.58	1.16
Cucumbers—bushel	1.28	1.10	.75
Eggplant—bushel	.86	.89	.64
Lettuce—crate	1.69	1.71	1.27
Onions—bushel	1.19	.51	.39
Peas—bushel	1.73	1.44	1.26
Peppers—bushel	.97	1.06	.71
Spinach—bushel	.60	.54	.46
Strawberries—crate	3.23	4.06	1.94
Tomatoes—bushel	1.83	1.64	1.04
Watermelons—thousand	172.00	116.00	80.00

PRESIDENT APPROVES TARIFF REPORT ON CRAB MEAT

The President has approved the findings of the Tariff Commission with respect to crab meat. The Commission's report states that costs of production in the United States and in the principal competing country do not furnish an adequate basis for determining the duty under section 336 of the Tariff Act. Crab meat is dutiable at 15 per cent ad valorem; Japan is the principal source of imports; and Chesapeake Bay is the center of United States production. Imports in 1931 amounted to 11,426,096 pounds, valued at \$4,430,721.

The reasons given by the Commission for not comparing domestic and foreign costs of production are as follows:

The domestic and the imported crab meat are produced from two widely different species of crabs, each yielding meat distinguishable in taste, color, and texture;

Both the domestic and the imported meat are packed in a variety of grades. About 75 per cent of the imported product is high grade fancy meat, but only 29 per cent of the domestic product is the high grade fancy pack;

All imports are non-perishable, packed in sealed tins, and capable of national distribution. Only about 2 per cent of the domestic production is thus packed; the remaining 98 per cent is the highly perishable cooked meat packed in unsealed tins;

Wholesale prices of the domestic meat have fallen materially during the past three years, whereas prices of the imported product have remained almost stationary. The marked decrease in the price of the domestic product has been caused mainly by increased production and the physical difficulties of effecting wider distribution. Production in the Chesapeake Bay area increased from about 2,000,000 pounds in 1925 to about 5,200,000 pounds in 1931.

DEATH OF PHILIP LARMON

Philip Larmon, long associated with Libby, McNeill & Libby, and a member of the Finance Committee of the National Canners Association, passed away at his home in Chicago on Monday, December 26th. Funeral services were held on the following Wednesday.

For many years Mr. Larmon served on the Association's Executive Committee, and he had also been a member of the Board of Directors. He was an able business man of wide experience, holding positions of great responsibility. In his activities both in the business field and in Association work he acquired a legion of friends, by whom he was held in highest personal esteem.

OUTPUT OF CANNED MEAT AND SAUSAGE IN 1931

The output of canned meat and canned sausage during 1931 in establishments engaged in the meat-packing business, as recently announced by the Census Bureau, showed considerable reduction from the output for 1929. The following table gives the Census figures:

	1929	1931	Per cent decrease
Canned Meat:			
Pounds	149,582,361	91,407,854	38.9
Value	\$38,114,158	\$21,179,688	44.4
Canned Sausage:			
Pounds	19,551,909	13,454,730	31.2
Value	\$4,404,404	\$2,449,914	44.4

In 1931 there were also produced in other than the meat-packing industries, 626,697 pounds of canned sausage valued at \$148,171.

CENSUS FIGURES ON CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK

The output of condensed milk in the census year 1931 fell off about 26 per cent in volume and about 46 per cent in value as compared with 1929, according to preliminary statistics issued by the U. S. Census Bureau. Evaporated milk production declined only about 4 per cent in volume but 29 per cent in value. In the following table the 1931 figures represent production; those for 1929 refer to sales (shipments or deliveries) by manufacturers.

	1929	1931	Change Per cent
Condensed milk:			
Case goods—			
Pounds	246,343,964	175,334,436	—28.8
Value	\$24,435,490	\$13,104,820	—46.4
Bulk goods—			
Pounds	286,382,688	216,361,068	—24.5
Value	\$18,481,751	\$10,464,442	—43.4
Evaporated milk:			
Case goods—			
Pounds	1,366,764,143	1,423,697,310	+ 4.2
Value	\$110,822,324	\$83,556,273	—24.6
Bulk goods—			
Pounds	275,440,418	156,331,944	—43.2
Value	\$15,379,835	\$6,050,011	—60.7
Condensed and evaporated buttermilk:			
Pounds	135,786,920	99,447,610	—26.8
Value	\$4,106,786	\$1,883,292	—55.1
Sterilized milk (canned):			
Pounds	6,711,185	927,125	—86.2
Value	\$498,452	\$13,199	—97.4

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1931				
January	5,611,727	\$198,377	796,143	\$62,736
February	7,375,831	235,570	873,380	75,763
March	7,000,827	243,760	907,242	66,645
April	9,932,389	364,172	1,642,420	149,608
May	8,002,003	289,368	953,333	68,233
June	5,517,940	201,246	1,047,352	88,704
July	3,471,766	125,836	1,129,600	84,819
August	3,579,515	124,599	2,564,658	218,210
September	3,405,354	111,513	366,012	23,508
October	8,963,883	283,786	875,500	59,385
November	9,340,672	302,802	931,587	59,922
Total	72,291,016	\$2,481,128	12,087,245	\$957,593
1932				
January	10,461,256	307,270	977,691	60,177
February	11,743,475	341,551	652,718	41,161
March	10,092,412	329,724	716,882	44,600
April	11,435,615	388,655	961,844	70,524
May	6,942,082	251,752	805,181	58,392
June	4,378,685	156,450	649,105	42,962
July	3,291,979	127,073	717,271	59,701
August	1,564,358	57,127	540,432	41,489
September	4,572,890	133,004	1,033,689	74,070
October	10,300,797	314,189	1,830,463	129,223
November	9,702,742	316,440	724,051	42,295
Total	85,391,291	\$2,723,504	9,600,417	\$864,594

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER

Exports of canned foods were generally smaller in November than in the corresponding month of 1931, increases being reported in only three items—canned beef, canned peas and canned prunes. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	November, 1931		November, 1932	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total.....	927,633	\$230,518	690,719	\$143,204
Beef	48,101	8,783	66,679	15,775
Pork	740,351	195,308	558,203	113,020
Sausage	60,905	15,977	43,925	9,889
Other	78,276	10,450	27,972	4,580
Canned vegetables, total.....	2,659,855	268,728	1,600,672	123,401
Asparagus	1,000,497	136,478	373,345	46,488
Baked beans, and pork and beans.....	353,599	25,051	401,008	16,398
Corn	251,809	18,769	163,200	9,587
Peas	157,213	14,287	237,135	17,141
Soups	281,632	31,422	99,284	11,573
Tomatoes	183,393	12,545	169,539	8,531
Other	351,712	29,576	157,161	13,083
Condensed milk	1,443,410	246,251	521,698	59,011
Evaporated milk	4,239,591	363,574	2,600,645	150,796
Canned fruits, total.....	29,770,926	2,116,214	12,962,662	785,207
Apples and applesauce.....	5,450,158	239,786	2,726,432	103,300
Apricots	1,753,673	119,444	852,203	48,984
Loganberries	519,662	59,967	127,519	7,589
Other berries	79,568	8,661	38,822	3,431
Cherries	69,714	8,088	34,855	3,581
Fruits for salad.....	3,407,452	411,198	881,485	89,469
Grapefruit	177,444	11,212	32,169	2,385
Peaches	6,535,196	424,003	3,151,528	183,016
Pears	8,479,126	507,820	3,670,440	233,838
Pineapple	3,017,428	212,501	1,174,223	89,780
Prunes	94,478	8,258	135,414	9,837
Other	187,027	15,276	137,572	9,988
Salmon	5,424,122	941,000	1,141,610	113,158
Sardines	3,831,544	241,473	1,773,217	98,384

SHRIMP PACK TO DECEMBER 15

The pack of shrimp from December 1 to 15, as announced by the Shrimp Section of the Association, was 20,358 cases, as compared with 19,860 cases in the corresponding period last year, and 27,094 cases during the same period last month. The pack from August 1 to December 15, by states, for the last two years follows:

States	Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 1931	Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 1932
Georgia	53,108	66,280
Florida	19,050	5,861
South Carolina	8,250	
Alabama	33,337	34,242
Mississippi	182,803	79,182
Louisiana	242,328	237,788
Texas	38,053	43,151
Total.....	570,929	460,513

The net decrease under the 1931 pack was 110,416 cases, or 19 per cent.

TO MARK CANADIAN CANNED SALMON TO SHOW SPECIES

As a result of a recent order-in-council passed by the Dominion Government, salmon canned in Canada will in the future be so marked as to show the species, according to information received through the Department of State from American Vice Consul Nelson P. Meeks at Vancouver, B. C. The order provides that the following markings be inscribed on both ends of the can: "S" for sockeye, "P" for pinks, "C" for cohoes, "K" for chums, "T" for springs, "B" for bluebacks, "H" for steelhead.

The purpose of the new regulation is to prevent, if possible, the sale of Canadian salmon abroad under false or misleading labels. Salmon sold on the domestic market bears a printed label showing the species, while salmon shipped to export markets is usually labelled in the country of its ultimate consumption.

BULLETINS ISSUED ON SAUERKRAUT

Two new bulletins on sauerkraut have been issued by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, giving the results of investigations conducted on the quality of commercial sauerkraut and on the relation between temperature and rate of fermentation. The former publication gives the results of a chemical and physical analysis of 102 cans of sauerkraut from 71 different packers throughout the United States, and the latter publication furnishes information obtained by observations made on 125 vats during three seasons in one factory, in addition to a study of a smaller number of vats in other factories.

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